

At page 2, line 14, please delete ~~the~~ ";".

At page 2, line 14, please delete ~~the~~ the first and second occurrences of ":",

At page 2, line 14 after "filed" insert ~~the~~ -- on --.

In the claims:

Please cancel ~~the~~ claim 4.

Please amend ~~the~~ claims 1, 5, 6 as follows:

Sub 1
Q1
A1
(amended) 1.A method for verifying the source of an article of manufacture, said method comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a label, said label [including] comprising an unreproducible pattern and information relating to said article;

b) describing said unreproducible pattern and including said description with said information relating to said article;

[b)]c) encrypting at least a portion of said information [included on said label] relating to said article;

[c)]d) securely associating said article, said label, and a tangible representation of said encrypted information.

Sub 3
Q2
A2
(amended) 5.A method as described in Claim [4] 1 wherein said unreproducible pattern is formed from magnetic fibers embedded in said label.

(amended) 6.A method as described in Claim [4] 1 wherein said encrypted information is encrypted with a first private key of a first public/private key pair and a corresponding first public key is available to parties who wish to validate the source of said article.